

REMARKS

Claim 5 is amended and claim 8 is cancelled. No issues of new matter are presented.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2ND PARAGRAPH

In paragraph 4, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite with respect to the recited element, "said preformed members" in line 4. The Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this element of the claims and suggests amending claim 5 to recite "one or more preformed stringer members" in lines 3-4, "said one or more preformed stringer members" in line 7 and "said one or more stringer members" in line 8.

Claim 5 is amended herein to recite "one or more preformed stringer members" as suggested by the Examiner, thereby obviating the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 7, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lucas et al in view of Dean et al, or in the alternative, Dean et al in view of Lucas et al.

In paragraph 8, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lucas et al in view of Dean et al, or alternatively, Dean et al in view of Lucas et al and further in view of Wilden.

Claim 8 is canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

RESPONSE TO OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

On page 7, paragraph 10, claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,551,441 in view of Dean et al.

On page 8, paragraph 11, claim 5 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,551,441 in view of Dean et al and further in view of Wilden.

A terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith, in response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/832,794

ATTY DKT. Q64074

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

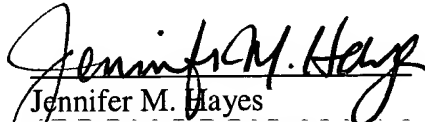
Respectfully submitted,

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